

**MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
PROTECTION & WELFARE COMMITTEE
Monday, December 10, 2012
City Hall, Room 207
5:00 P.M.**

Members Present: Ald. Steuer, Ald. Brunette, Ald. Boyce, and Ald. Tim De Wane
Members Excused: None
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Mayor Jim Schmitt, Jim Mueller – Asst. City Attorney, Ald. Tom DeWane, Ald. James Warner, Thomas Molitor – Chief of Police, Deacon Tim Reilly, Alexia Wood – Director of St. John Homeless Shelter
Other Interested Parties

1. Roll Call.

Ald. Steuer, Ald Brunette, Ald. Boyce, and Ald. DeWane were present.

2. Approval of the Agenda.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim DeWane to approve the agenda as presented. Motion Carried.

3. Report by St. John's Homeless Shelter and review of shelter operations with possible action.

Atty. Mueller explained the purpose of this meeting is to first discuss the St. John's Homeless Shelter regular report of operations. As the City has been made aware of a number of police calls to the location, along with several other issues, including neighborhood complaints, Atty. Mueller suggested that information be gathered for discussion and possible resolution through the Mayor, Committee members, staff, and public comment.

Chair Steuer opened the floor to staff, members of St. John's Shelter, and the Green Bay Police Department without objection.

Tim Reilly, a Deacon in the Diocese who serves as the shelter president, stated he received a letter late last Friday, December 7th, from the Mayor's office voicing concerns with shelter activities and that this meeting of the Protection & Welfare Committee was scheduled for Monday, December 10th to discuss such concerns. Deacon Reilly indicated that the shelter is an important and vital ministry of the Catholic Church. It is open for six months during the winter when the homeless population is at a health risk due to exposure to extreme cold weather.

In summary, Deacon Reilly addressed the following concerns voiced by the Mayor:

- Number of Guests – Deacon Reilly stated the shelter is authorized through state guidelines to have 84 guests, although the City Plan Commission has authorized 64 guests through a conditional use permit. An attendance list is sent every night to the Police Department informing them of the actual number in-house. If there is an overflow, the operational plan allows for allowing more people, still remaining in compliance.

- Shelter Address used as permanent address – Deacon Reilly stated that the shelter offers residents the opportunity to use the shelter address as their permanent address, which the Mayor has indicated may be a violation of temporary shelter. Deacon Reilly explained it only make sense to allow this so that people can be reached wherever they are.
- Residents from outside of Brown County – Statistics on these numbers were shared. Deacon Reilly indicated that from a church standpoint anyone that is homeless and without shelter will be allowed, although staff attempts to facilitate with individuals to return home.
- Nuisance Calls to the Police Department – Although 37 calls were reported since opening on November 1st, a meeting with the Police Department determined that of this number 14 had no connection to St. John's, 11 calls were made by staff as part of standard operating procedure used when residents arrive, 6 were behavioral issues (smoking in a non-designated area), 5 were pre-active calls from staff, with only 1 given an actual citation.

Alexia Wood, Director of St. John's Shelter reviewed the present operating report, indicating that in the future she will see that the report is forwarded to Committee members before their meeting time.

Ms. Wood summarized statistics from the 2011 season, stating there were 304 total guests staying an average of 31.4 days, with 44% staying 10 days or less. A report by the Wisconsin Department of Commerce indicates that most residents in shelters are there 1 week to 10 days. The majority of residents reported their last address as within the City limits of Green Bay, 89% were diagnosed with a disability of long duration. Ten per cent (10%) were United State veterans which have been identified by the State as one of the most vulnerable populations. Twenty-seven (27) guests were identified by the federal government as chronically homeless.

Ms. Wood reported that year-to-date numbers show 172 guests served since opening on November 1st. There has been an average of 60 individuals per night, 49 men and 11 women, aging from 18 to 71. Of this total number, 10 have been veterans.

Ms. Wood informed the Committee that within the last month 9 residents have obtained individual housing, 8 have been referred to the NEW Community Shelter, 5 have been referred to family or friends, 11 have left the County with the assistance from the shelter of a bus ticket. She explained that those from other states are provided a meal voucher upon leaving.

Ms. Wood explained that the shelter recognizes the concern that when residents leave at 9 a.m. there is no supervision in the Community. They are working with area agencies to form partnerships and steps have been taken to identify day programming, such as AA, group therapy, and coordination with the Job Center. Ms. Wood indicated there are plans to open a day center which is targeted for February 1st. This center will tailor services to the homeless population and provide preparation for the future. Both non-profit and social service agencies will be involved.

When asked for a further breakdown of the calls to police, Ms. Wood explained there were 5 calls from shelter staff for pro-active assistance (aware of violation of probation, alcohol use, possession of marijuana). Other calls were made by residents informing the police of a stolen bike, two people with disabilities looking for a ride, a call to the Crisis Center, a call that someone was smoking in an undesignated area outside the Library, a call from a concerned driver that a women on the street appeared confused or

intoxicated, one accidental call to 911, one regarding an argument between a boyfriend and girlfriend, one stating that a guest was seen hitting a sign with a pole, and a guest intoxicated in a local park.

When asked how the marijuana was found, Ms. Wood explained that every person entering the shelter is first run through a background check. After that every time they enter a personal security check is made including shoes off, etc. It was during this check that the marijuana was found.

Ald. Boyce asked if expectations are explained to guests for when they are off premise and Ms. Wood indicated that rules are explained at intake and during orientation (inappropriate behavior in the neighborhood or at a downtown business, at a park, or library). In addition, guest meetings are held twice a month at which time rules and expectations are reiterated as well as during times of staff interaction.

When asked by Tom DeWane if there is an implementation schedule after offense, Ms. Wood explained it depends on the severity, i.e. open intoxicant at the Library means immediate release from the shelter. Because staff is not always aware that a guest has been cited, they have asked that the police notify them in a timely manner.

Mayor Jim Schmitt stated that he was originally informed of the opening of St. John's Shelter by the City police who expressed concern. Since that time, he has attempted to work with the shelter, the neighborhood and local businesses. A recent meeting was held with the Board who oversees the shelter, along with several police members, the City Council President, and himself. At that time he was informed that 43% of residents did not come from Brown County, and he questions why this is allowed. He was also under the impression that at times there have been as many as 90 residents. He feels the shelter is shrinking from their responsibility behind the Church.

Mayor Schmitt stated that his biggest concern is what is happening during daytime hours when residents are left to roam the City in the cold weather which he sees as un-Christian. He would like to see a long-term plan, where they are going in the next 3 to 5 years, how many residents will there be, will they work with other community churches to accommodate the population, etc. He feels that although the City and local community have been responsive, the shelter is not operating as well as it should.

Ald. Brunette pointed out his understanding that the main function of this shelter is to help with the physical needs of the homeless during the cold weather and provide a vital public service. It would be ideal if there was a way to transition this population into the community and find them jobs. It appears that no one else has come forward to help and he feels that the City can work with the shelter and the church to move forward without negativity. He asked what the Mayor would like to see happen.

Mayor Schmitt stated there are other shelters in the area which the City supports. He does not feel the same ownership with St. John's. He would like there to be discussion so that there is improvement not only for the residents, but also for the community.

Ald. Tom DeWane stated that he has lived in the Green Bay area for his lifetime and there have always been homeless individuals. He was in favor of St. John's starting the shelter when it first occurred although others had concerns. He agrees there is a need however, the issue is becoming bigger than St. John's can handle. He would like to see them accept only Green Bay residents, requiring other surrounding municipalities and area churches to take responsibility for their own residents.

Mayor Schmitt indicated that originally St. John's opened as a temporary emergency shelter. Because the average stay is now 34 days he suggests that St. John's change their business plan and become a community shelter.

Ald. Steuer referred to the above statement regarding receipt of mail at the St. John's address, indicating this is a sign of permanence. Ms. Wood explained this does not include all residents, however, there are those who get food stamps, health insurance notices, have disability claims filed etc. and need a physical address.

When asked by Ald. Steuer regarding a Job Service "three week class", Ald. James Warner, who works at Job Service, indicated he is unaware of this program, however, will research and provide information. He explained that as a Job Service employee he works primarily with veterans. He is aware of other agencies, such as Work Force Development, Forward Services, and DVR (Division of Vocational Rehabilitation) who may have services to offer. He notes that there is a lot of traffic during the day in and out of these offices.

Ald. Brunette asked Ald. Tom DeWane about his comment that other municipalities should take care of their own residents, indicating that the Catholic Church will never invoke boundaries. He asked if the church was in violation of the conditional use permit which was granted.

Ald. Tom DeWane indicated that the church would never be in violation, nor would they ever turn anyone away, however, the issue is that the problem is getting too big for one church to handle.

When asked if other churches have come forward, Ald. Tom DeWane stated they have not, that they have a "not in our backyard" philosophy. They feel that St. John's is doing a good job and Ald. Tom DeWane agreed that they are doing so within their capacity, that they have amazing volunteers. Ald. Brunette indicated it is not his wish to have them shut down, that they are an important part of the community, that there needs to be a way to help them and make it work.

Ald. Steuer asked if it was unreasonable to think that other churches or agencies should help, although he agrees it makes sense to divide the numbers more equitably. Deacon Reilly responded to this comment, stating that he has contacted other churches within the Diocese in areas such as Appleton, Manitowoc, and Oshkosh about a shelter and they have indicated if he gets any response, it has been negative. Deacon Reilly stated that St. John's will not turn anyone away because they don't meet a residency requirement, that they will not say if you don't live in this county, you are not welcome. He would like the help of the City and county in some kind of interagency cooperation to work with individuals so that they are not in a situation of homelessness.

Ald. Steuer indicated there are other religious and non-religious groups who could get involved and should minister. He finds it hard to understand the negative responses from other churches. Deacon Reilly explained that a large portion of the population served are chronically homeless and have either a disability or addiction, requiring specialized staff to work with them. Many churches and volunteers do not feel they have this expertise.

Chief Moliter, Green Bay Police Department, appeared and explained there is an issue with the lack of supervision provided at St. John's after 9 a.m. in the morning. There are many residents who have been found to begin drinking and find shelter at the library, in churches, etc., resulting in calls to the department which require response. Although many are not serious, they require time that takes away from other priorities. He stated

the department is willing to share elements of this problem with St. John's in an effort to work out a method for reducing harm to the City and managing calls for service.

When asked by Ald. Boyce how many guests at the shelter are manageable, the Chief indicated there are several factors to determine this number, stating that calls for someone sleeping in the library, etc. result in time wasted.

Officer Paul VanHandle stated he is assigned to the St. John's district and indicated that the department has partnered with the shelter to provide security training in an effort to reduce police calls. He shared results of studies during the period from 1/1/2011 to 7/5/2012, indicating that during this 18 month period there have been 312 different calls related to alcohol or mental health issues stemming from welfare checks, suspicious persons, or disturbances. Such calls during this period of time resulted in 3,707 calls for servicing this group of people, resulting in 159,157 minutes, or 20,651 hours of officer time, at a cost of \$77,769.

Out of these 312 calls, Officer VanHandle reported that 185 persons were placed in protective custody resulting in an alcohol hold, then transported to a medical facility to be medically cleared before being sent to the Brown County Mental Health Center. Cost for these 185 persons to be in detox is \$500 a day per person or \$92,500 during the 18 month period. In addition, 53 persons were taken into custody for mental health related issues, suicidal, etc.

Officer Craig Carlson stated that the majority of his duties on winter days revolve around the homeless population from the St. John's shelter. He walks through the library a couple of times a day and finds the homeless sleeping and drinking in bathrooms. He responds to calls at local parks of people drinking, urinating, etc. At times trespass orders are issued meaning such person is not allowed to return to that location for one year. Carlson stated that everyday warnings are given to the homeless population.

Ald. Brunette asked if there are other areas where the homeless congregate and Officer Carlson indicated Whitney Park and other parks, alleys, anywhere out of view. It was clarified that officers do occasionally stop at the shelter around 9 in the morning and discuss with residents what they are going to do that day, that there are other things to do than drink.

As Ald. Tim DeWane volunteers at St. John's, Ald. Steuer asked his opinion of the facility. Ald. Tim DeWane indicated it is a "wonderful place" that he has never been present when anyone was disorderly.

Officer Mark Strojny stated he has spent the last six months policing the downtown area. He has stopped and talked to residents since the facility opened November 1st and feels he has a working relationship with the population. Last weekend, he reported there were seven found drinking in Whitney Park at 9 a.m., several of whom were on the roster of St. John's.

Ald. Steuer asked if any of the St. John's staff or volunteers ever follow residents when they leave at 9 a.m. Alexia Wood stated that she has met with the Library Director and a plan is in place to visit once a week without notice.

Lynn Stainbrook – Brown County Library Director indicated that the homeless population is welcome at the library if they are using computers, etc., however, she noted that staff is not trained to deal with problems of disabilities, mental health, or alcohol problems. She noted that she admires the mission of St. John's and commended the response

from the Green Bay City Police. She encouraged that a place be made available where assistance could be provided by trained professionals during day time hours.

Lynn Hoffman, Brown County Library Operations Manager, stated she deals with day to day issues at the library and has met with staff at St. John's. She stated that although there is a perception in the community that the library attracts the homeless, she indicated this is not true, that there are only a handful of problem people throughout the season. Most use the library in a positive and appropriate manner. Hoffman stated the problem comes from those few who have disabilities and addictions and who at times act in an inappropriate manner which causes staff to intervene in an area where they are uncomfortable.

When asked actual numbers, Ms. Hoffman stated the library generates an internal incident report not only used for police intervention, but to share with staff those patrons who may be of concern. On average there are 30 a month, which appears to be higher in the winter months. Ms. Hoffman stated that all are not shelter residents or homeless people. She provided a list of trespass arrests, pointing out that of 35, one-half are part of the homeless population. There are no actual fact sheets related specifically to shelter residents.

Ald. Tom DeWane stated he was confused, pointing out that it has been reported that the Police Department is continually called by library staff asking what can be done about the homeless from St. John's, now hearing Ms Hoffman report that it isn't that big of a problem, that only one-half of the calls relate to the shelter.

Ald. Steuer asked Ald. DeWane, who serves on the County Board, if this issue has been discussed there. Ald. DeWane indicated that it has, reporting that he was recently informed of an inappropriate action by an individual when a grandparent took his granddaughter to the library to get her first card, although stated there is no proof that this individual was from St. John's.

Officer Ryan Meader stated that he works the afternoon/evening shift in the downtown area, noting that calls diminish when the shelter opens for the evening. Although he finds the shelter to be good for the community, he indicated it is a resource that has been made available. When residents are asked what they would do without this facility, they reply they will figure it out later or don't care. St. John's is strictly a winter facility, open from November 1st to April 31st.

Mayor Schmitt expressed surprise at the presentation by the Library, stating that numbers are conflicting. He indicated he would like to have better documentation.

Ald. Tom DeWane questioned Deacon Reilly why the shelter cannot stay open during the day, indicating that residents need a place to go that provides solutions to help them. He asked if the shelter gives any money to residents and Deacon Reilly indicated they do not, only in the form of bus tokens. Ald. Tom DeWane questioned where they are getting money to buy liquor.

5 minute recess

Chairman Steuer opened the floor to the public without objection

Jeff Suski stated that he is a recovering alcoholic. He owns numerous houses in Green Bay, one being for recovering alcoholics. He explained that many chronic alcoholics may need to drink first thing in the morning to avoid seizures. They will go anywhere for liquor. He spoke to the success that St. John's has made over the years, noting that

there is now support staff in house. Many of their past residents now have homes and jobs. He stated he is willing to work with the neighbors, area businesses, the library and police. He presently works with several AA groups in the surrounding area.

David Bartikofsky, Bay Settlement Road, stated he owns a business on Broadway and stated he would be willing to have a resident of St. John's come into his business to do a day of work. He encourages other area businesses to do the same, stating this is a community problem, not only a government problem, that alcoholism should be recognized as a disease that is not going away. He has become aware of the situation as he raises money for the facility.

Chairman Steuer asked if Mr. Bartikofsky was aware of other businesses who may be willing to offer a work experience and Mr. Bartikofsky stated he did not, but that it is something to be researched.

Anthony Polzein, 1900 Morrow Street, stated he is a present board member of St. John's Shelter and a former resident. He stated he was at the facility for three months from November of 2009 to February of 2010. He was originally from the Wausau area but has lived all over Wisconsin. He stated he was in many shelters and found his experience at St. John's to be lifesaving. After three months he moved into his own apartment. He is presently unemployed, however, does do some work for the management company in his building, and continues to volunteer in the community. He stated that a rule to enforce only residents from Brown County into the shelter and not to have an open door policy would be an injustice. He states that if not for the help from St. John's, he would probably still be homeless or in jail, if even alive.

Ald. Boyce asked how he saw the effect of the shelter on the downtown area and Mr. Polzein stated at the time he was not aware, although in hindsight realizes there were problems at times with alcoholics. He stated that in general the residents were a good group of people who helped each other to move forward.

Andrea Olson, Allouez, stated she comes from a different point of view, explaining that she owns property next to the shelter, originally purchased for a coffee shop. She has experienced panhandling, theft, beer cans and damage to her property. The general public is afraid to come to her business and children in the neighborhood are afraid to go to the park because of the high risk. Ms. Olson stated she has to abide by the guidelines of government and sees the shelter as a business who should do so also. She encouraged that the shelter have a plan for day time hours as this is when most of the crime is occurring. She has been told that residents are allowed to bring weapons, alcohol and drugs into the shelter, which are taken away overnight, but returned to them in the morning.

Ms. Olson reported that she was held at knife point in her building. She owns property at 408, 410, and 416 South Madison. She has lost thousands of dollars. Her daughter lives in one of the properties and has made 7 calls to police in the last 16 days. She has to be walked to her car. Ms. Olson asked for more police patrol and consideration for people who have purchased property in this area, are paying taxes and following guidelines. She stated she is a member of St. John's Parish and purchased her property in 2003. The shelter opened in 2006. She asked that the committee review previous meeting minutes where there is documentation.

Director Wood addressed comments by Ms. Olson stating there is no alcohol or weapons allowed on site. Any found are confiscated and turned over to police, resulting in eviction from the shelter. Items such as fingernail clippers, pocket knives, and razors are confiscated and returned upon permanent release.

Ald. Steuer asked if all residents leave at 9 a.m. in a group and Ms. Wood indicated that they leave throughout the morning, that 9 a.m. is the deadline unless working with mental health counselors, etc.

Ms. Wood also pointed out that one of the volunteers purchased fencing so that residents cannot cut through on private property.

Kristy Ksorisekm, Glacier Drive, stated she is a volunteer at the shelter and was surprised to hear of the problems that have been presented. She asked what other shelters do with their residents during the day. She stated that drinking in parks has been a problem since she was a child, that her son was at Whitney Park this summer and that although his phone was stolen, suspects a youngster. She stated there has also been theft in the nice neighborhood she lives in. With regard to out-of-county residents, explained that she worked with two residents in their late teens, one being a drug addict who had come here to get out of the community he lived in. He experienced success at the shelter and is now training as a missionary.

Tony Michler, DePere, Board of Trustees at St. John's Shelter – Mr. Michler has been involved with the shelter since its inception in 2005 and involvement with the Diocese in 2007. He pointed out how more comprehensively and effectively it is run today. In response to comments about a day shelter, Mr. Michler referred to page 4 of Ms. Wood's report which highlights plans for a day shelter which is presently in the planning and which he sees occurring in the next few months.

Jane Jordan, Deckner Avenue, explained that in 2010 the shelter approached the idea of a day center at the suggestion of the Green Bay Police to find a solution to residents leaving St. John's at 9 a.m. with no place to go. Discussions with Lutheran Social Services have resulted in their offer to run the center, although there is no location at this time. Ms. Jordan also informed the Committee of her involvement with a drop-in center for homeless women in the community, many not from the shelter.

When asked by Ald. Steuer if Lutheran Social Services is operating independently, Ms. Jordan indicated there are 10 different agencies involved, i.e. St. Vincent DePaul, Marion House, the Crisis Center, to name a few.

Ann Hartman, South Jackson Street, stated she sees alcoholics drinking in her neighborhood in empty buildings, at parks, many from the shelter. She stated that St. John's is one of very few in the nation who allow alcoholics shelter. She would like to see a limit of two weeks enforced if the resident continues to drink. She stated she had knowledge of two men, one from Texas, one from Pennsylvania living at the shelter. She stated they will continue to come and the numbers will rise as Deacon Reilly has stated he will not turn anyone away.

In response to these comments, Ms. Wood indicated their statistics show 57% of residents from Brown County in the last year, 60% from within the City limits, and a small number from outside the area. The shelter has never had a guest from Texas. She agreed that the policy is to turn no one away, however, out of county persons are encouraged to return to their county of origin and are provided a bus pass.

Patricia Lane, 2537 Northern Terrier Pass, Howard, stated that she serves as a volunteer at St. John's, bringing a background in local government and in the school system before living in this area. She emphasized that St. John's is doing what they are supposed to do and are licensed to do – to provide emergency shelter from the hours of 6 p.m. to 9 a.m. She feels that revoking their license would be a disaster. She

volunteers about 4 hours a week and serves about 6 hours a month on the PR committee. She sees the present problem as being that the City and the Mayor would like services expanded. She feels that area businesses should rally and embrace this population and provide help.

Ald. Boyce asked regarding comments about area businesses rallying and embracing the homeless population and Ms. Lane responded that she would like to see the larger businesses in the area step forward with help. In regard to comments about other communities not responding, she pointed out that she and other volunteers come from all areas of the County and from other churches and are helping in that way. It is not a matter of where the shelter is located but that it is helping people in need.

Teresa Melotte, McCormick Street, is a school bus driver and is aware of a man panhandling on her route about 10 times a month. Many times she stops and gives him money as an example to the children on her bus. She knows that he is a veteran. She believes in helping the poor, stating that St. John's is doing a good job. She would like to see St. John's as a stepping stone which would offer help to alcoholics and others who cannot find jobs, noting that homelessness can happen to anyone.

Susan Perrault, 1794 Bircher Drive, Horbat, is employed at St. John's Church and has been involved with the shelter from the beginning. She stated it has been successful because of many people sharing and striving to find solutions. She stated that at one time the Mayor had appointed a Task Force with membership from the greater Green Bay area. She suggested that this Task Force be recalled, that it would be a good place to share ideas.

When asked by Ald. Tim DeWane about the Task Force, Chief Molliter explained that he served on this committee which was about 2009. He indicated the membership included people from Social Services, area businesses, real estate representatives, area shelters, etc. with a facilitator from UWGB. Chief Molliter stated there was good dialogue and a better understanding of housing in the area. He remembered that a person was placed in housing as an experiment and it did not go well. After that, the committee dissolved.

Santiago Schmerber, 411 St. John's Street, has lived in the area for 39 years and is a former resident of the shelter. He stated he is an alcoholic who struggles everyday, is estranged from his family, and lives with fear. He feels that alcoholics are persecuted even though it is a disease. He stated it took all his strength to come to this meeting and speak. He blames no one for his situation. He indicated that he came to St. John's after he was found drunk at the library and not breathing by a resident of the facility. He made friends at the shelter, more than in his lifetime. He stated that St. John's is different from the NEW Community Shelter in that they are forgiving and keep working with individuals.

Mike Westenberg, Clay Street, Allouez, is a member of the Board of Trustees at St. John's Shelter. He invited Committee members to spend a night at the shelter to experience what goes on there. He stated that for some reason, the Mayor seems to have a grudge. He indicated that poverty and homelessness across the country is increasing and it is no different here. He pointed out that records by the school system show the numbers of homeless children rising, however, there is no blame placed on them while the shelter is being blamed for increasing numbers in homelessness because they do not turn anyone away.

Pete Steuer, Chestnut Drive, Florida, is Ald. Steuer's brother. He is a business owner in the City where he lives. In that capacity he has become involved with agencies such as Big Brothers and others and sponsored four girls to go to their prom, paying expenses

under the condition they get an education. Of the four, one recently received her cosmetology license and will become a productive member of society. He encouraged that Green Bay businessman get involved, that if only one homeless person is reached, it is worthwhile. Mr. Steuer stated he has also worked with a man released from prison in conjunction with Probation & Parole and the Judge, employing him part-time in his carpet laying business. This man is thrilled to be given an opportunity. Mr. Steuer stated he also volunteers his time to teach public speaking skills at a prison, so that when released individuals are not speaking gang lingo. He stated he understands the concerns of business owners who have had a drop in property values, but feels that if the government and community cooperate, there can be a difference.

Kristina Gomez, Farlin Avenue, has worked on security staff at St. John's for the last two years. She explained that when a resident first arrives, they have trust issues, don't talk, and feel isolated. After a short period of time they start to mingle and get to know others. If someone does something that is not approved, Ms. Gomez stated that residents will tell security staff so that it is addressed. She indicated that she was homeless for one month when her apartment building burned down and at the same time she lost her job. She indicated that she now volunteers at other community agencies whenever she can.

Tom Pecore, 633 East Walnut, is a member of St. John's Parish and a business owner in the downtown area. Although he applauds the workers and volunteers at the shelter, he feels they still have a responsibility for actions of the residents during the daytime hours after they leave at 9 a.m. He would like to have this issue addressed by St. John's, the City, and the community. He noted that although there are volunteers from other parts of the City, they do not always see what is actually occurring during the day.

Atty. Mueller informed the Committee that no action can be taken on the Conditional Use Permit at this time. The possible actions available are: receive and place on file, refer to the Plan Commission to review and assure that the conditions in the CUP are being followed, or any other motion the Committee feels appropriate.

Ald. Brunette stated that after hearing all the testimony he feels that homelessness is really a secondary condition caused by drug and alcohol issues, veterans returning from war, etc. He commended St. John's Shelter and the work they do, questioning what the City would do without them. He also understands the issue that this population brings to the Police Department who are charged with protecting the City, along with the effect on property owners and businesses. He indicated that if St. John's is not complying with the Conditional Use Permit, he would like to see evidence of this.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim De Wane to receive and place on file.

Ald. Boyce suggested there be more intense discussion to better understand all aspects of the parties involved, first asking if the Committee is willing to spend a night at the shelter, to which they agreed.

Corrina O'Malley stated that she and a group of St. Norbert students opened a shelter in 1986 at the corner of Broadway and Kellogg Streets. Police, Fire, and Health Department officials came together to discuss issues. At that time there were no agencies to work with the homeless, although county relief existed. Ms. O'Malley opined that if a call was sent out to various agencies and others to become involved with their resources and strengths, rather than to discuss fears and problems, it is possible that homelessness would end in Brown County.

Ald. Steuer closed the floor without objection.

Ald. Steuer summarized for Mayor Schmitt, who was absent from the meeting for a period of time, of the comments made by speakers during his absence. He stated that at times government is expected to do much and that any successful venture needs not only government, but also private citizens and businesses. He indicated that the Committee is interested in a good solution, however, are not ready to make any decision tonight.

Ald. Boyce asked when the transcript from this meeting will be available on the City web site, encouraging the public to review and offer comments when it is available.

Ald. Brunette again asked for action on his motion to receive and place on file, stating that he does agree there should be review by the Planning Commission, however, does not find sufficient reason at this point. He feels that comments by the community and Police Department should be addressed with St. John's in a positive way.

Mayor Schmitt stated this motion is not appropriate.

Ald. Steuer asked the Mayor what happened to the previous Task Force and should that be reinstated. The Mayor agreed this would be an appropriate action – to reinstate the Task Force on homelessness for further study. Ald. Steuer was asked to serve as Chairman of this sub-committee and he agreed.

Motion made and seconded to receive and place on file withdrawn.

A motion was made by Ald. Brunette and seconded by Ald. Tim DeWane to form a task force under the guidance of the Protection and Welfare Committee, Mayor's Office and Green Bay Police Department to address homelessness in the City of Green Bay. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ald. Tim DeWane and seconded by Ald. Brunette to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 at p.m. Motion carried.

rgk